

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact
May 14, 2012

Fisheries under Consideration: Treaty Indian Commercial Platform and Hook and Line

Stock status and management guidelines for 2012 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (January 26, 2012).

Water Conditions

- Discharge at Bonneville Dam is currently at 330 kcfs (116 kcfs of which is spill) compared to a 5-year average of 274 kcfs for this date. Water temperature is currently 54.0°F compared a 5-year average of 53°F for this date.

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 13 totals 110,514 adults. Based on the 5-year average, passage at Bonneville averages 67% complete by this date, but has been late-timed for four of the past five years. The average 5-year 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from May 1 to May 12. TAC met today and updated the river mouth run size to a range of 192,000 to 217,000 with a point estimate of 202,000.

Mainstem Tribal Fisheries

- The tribes have completed their Ceremonial and Subsistence permit gillnet fishery. The tribes are in the process of finalizing the harvest data for this fishery. The preliminary total harvest is 9,000 Chinook along with less than 10 steelhead and 5 sturgeon.
- Platform and hook and line fishing is ongoing in Zone 6 and in areas downstream of Bonneville Dam consistent with MOU's and MOA's with the states of Oregon and Washington. The estimated harvest through May 13 is 3,670 with 1,350 of these fish being caught in fisheries downstream of Bonneville.
- The table below shows tribal catches to date.

2012 Treaty Indian Mainstem Spring Chinook Harvest

Fishery	Chinook Catch
Winter Gillnet	0
Spring C&S Permit Gillnet	9000
Zone 6 Platform H&L	2,320
Zone 5 Platform H&L	1,350
Total Platform H&L	3,670
Total To-Date	12,670

- The tribes have harvested to date 12,670 upriver spring Chinook. This harvest is consistent with a minimum run size of 141,000 at the river mouth.

- The tribes expect the total platform and hook and line harvest to be as much as 7,000 by June 15 assuming a late timed run and the allowance of commercial sales. This will bring the total tribal harvest to approximately 16,000. This is consistent with a river mouth run size of 175,000.

<i>Staff Recommendation - Treaty-Indian Commercial Fishery</i>	
SEASON:	The sale of fish caught after 6:00 AM, Tuesday May 15 is allowed until further notice.
AREA:	All of Zone 6
DATES:	Fish harvested after 6:00 AM Wednesday June 16, 2010 may be sold until further notice.
GEAR:	Hoop Net, Dip Net, and Hook and Line.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho, walleye, shad, yellow perch, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches total length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Sanctuaries:	All dam sanctuaries for these gear types remain in effect.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- The tribes will continue to monitor fisheries and adjust fisheries dependent on the run size. Depending on the actual catches in the platform and hook and line fisheries and the run size, the tribes may allow some limited commercial gillnet fishing opportunity later in the spring run.
- Additionally, the Yakama Nation has regularly scheduled fishery openings in tributaries including the Wind River, Drano Lake (Little White Salmon), Klickitat, and Icicle Creek. The Yakama Nation proposes that fish harvested in these fisheries be allowed for commercial sale during times when authorized by the tribe during their regularly scheduled openings and when sales are authorized in Zone 6 fisheries.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be scheduled for Wednesday May 16 at 1:00 PM to consider non-Indian fisheries.